

Isaac H. Lionberger House
3630 Grandel Square (formerly
Delmar Boulevard)
St. Louis
St. Louis City County
Missouri

HABS No. MO-1165

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96-SALU
57-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

ISAAC H. LIONBERGER HOUSE

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Street Address: 3630 Grandel Square (formerly Delmar Boulevard),
St. Louis, St. Louis City County, Missouri

Present Owner: Grandel Labor Temple, 3630 Grandel Square,
St. Louis, Missouri

Brief Statement
of Significance: This large brick house, built in 1886, is one of
the last works designed in H. H. Richardson's
office before his death.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: Built by John R. Lionberger for his son Isaac H. Lionberger. In 1906 the latter sold to Norfolk Realty Company. In 1917 Norfolk Realty Company sold to John Lienhop. Later in same year, sold to George L. Corliss.
2. Date of erection: 1886.
3. Architect: Designed in the office of Henry Hobson Richardson in early spring of 1886. John Lionberger employed Richardson for his own house on Vandeventer Place (demolished 1949) and for his daughter's house on the southwest corner of Gabanne and Goodfellow (demolished 1959). Richardson was seriously ill from the fall of 1885 until his death April 27, 1886. Richardson never went to St. Louis, and his biographers consider this, as well as the other Lionberger houses, more the work of the office than of Richardson personally. Mrs. Van Rensselaer in Henry Hobson Richardson does not consider it a work of his, and Hitchcock in The Architecture of H. H. Richardson and His Times says, "It is, probably, almost entirely the work of Goolidge and Shepley, but certainly in a very good late Richardsonian spirit."
4. Notes on alterations and additions: Glass brick in main entrance and first floor windows on west side are recent additions. Main drawing room has been divided into three offices.
5. Sources of information:
 - a. Marianna Griswold van Rensselaer (Mrs. Schuyler van R.), Henry Hobson Richardson (Boston: 1888).

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- b. Henry Russell Hitchcock, Jr., The Architecture of H. H. Richardson and His Times (New York: The Museum of Modern Art, 1936), pages 279-281.
 - c. Dr. William G. Swekosky, St. Louis historian, 2621 South Jefferson, St. Louis.
 - d. Missouri Historical Society Necrology Scrapbook, Vol. E, pages 117-119.
- B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure: Isaac H. Lionberger, well-known lawyer, one of St. Louis' first citizens, was also a public speaker and author. His essay, "The Felicities of Old Age," was translated into many languages. He was Assistant Attorney General 1893-1894. Also president of Missouri Bar Association, 1896. From 1917 to 1942, this house was the Benton College of Law and trained many well-known lawyers in the area. Mr. George Corliss was dean of the school.

Prepared by Mrs. C. S. Coyle, for the Landmarks
Inc. Association of St. Louis
May 1960

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

- 1. Architectural character: This large, rather simple, brick house, built in 1886 "in a very good late Richardsonian spirit," represents a break with the then current, very ornate style.
- 2. Condition of fabric: Good.

B. Technical Description of Exterior:

- 1. Over-all dimensions: 55' wide x 60' deep, two-and-a-half stories.
- 2. Foundations: Brick.
- 3. Wall construction: Brick second floor projects slightly over the first floor supported by brick corbeling.
- 4. Chimneys: Two large, simple, brick chimneys, four flues each.

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5. Openings:

- a. Doorways and Doors: Main entrance an arched vestibule now altered and enclosed with glass brick.
- b. Windows and Shutters: Original windows, double hung with either single- or double-light sash. No shutters.

6. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: Parallel gable roofs with a hip roof extension at right angles to the gable roofs toward the rear; shingled in slate.
- b. Cornice, eaves: Eaves have corbeled brick dentils. Brick gable ends have mouse-tooth pattern and are carried above the roof in parapets.
- c. Dormers: Three gable-roofed dormers on north facade with tapestry brick walls; slate-covered, hip-roofed dormers in rear.

C. Technical Descriptions of Interiors:

- 1. Floor plans: Rooms arranged about center entrance-stair hall.
- 2. Stairways: Open-well, open-string main stair with turned balusters, reeded square newel posts and molded handrail. Service stair enclosed.
- 3. Flooring: Principal rooms wood parquetry. Some now covered with modern resilient tile.
- 4. Wall and ceiling finish: Ceilings are plaster. Principal rooms have raised linoleum wainscot and wood paneling.
- 5. Doorways and doors: Altered.
- 6. Trim: Carved oak.
- 7. Hardware: Brass - heavily decorated.
- 8. Lighting: Modern.
- 9. Heating: Central. Fireplaces in three downstairs rooms.

D. Site:

- 1. Orientation and general setting: Main facade faces north. Terraced town lot.

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2. Enclosures: Rough limestone retaining wall on street. *96 SALE*
Concrete wall (modern) along drive.
 3. Outbuildings: Modern (c. 1930) garage and storage building.
 4. Walks, driveways: Concrete.
 5. Landscaping, gardens: None now exists.

Prepared by Robert G. Stewart, Architect, for the
Landmarks Inc. Association of St. Louis
May 1960